

Minutes of the Combined Health & Human Services Committee/Board Meeting

Thursday, March 25, 2004

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Sandy Wolff, Jim Jeskewitz, Mareth Kipp, Alicia Silva; **Absent:** Paul Pronold and Carl Seitz

Board Members Present: Citizen Members Dennis Farrell (Chair), Dick Wutt, JoAnn Weidmann, Dr. John Guy, Mike O'Brien and Supervisors Duane Paulson, Duane Stamsta, Vera Stroud and Joe Griffin; **Absent:** Pat Haukohl

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Health and Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Deputy Director Ernie Messinger, Intake and Support Division Manager Don Maurer, Public Health Advisory Committee Chair Sue Konkel, Public Health Manager Dr. Nancy Healy Haney, Public Health staff Irene Ridgeman, Rosie Schroeder, Darren Rausch, Heidi Bavlnka, Jennifer Evans, Child and Family Services Division Manager Jesús Mireles, Parks and Land Use Director Dale Shaver, Environmental Health Manager George Morris, Budget Analyst Andy Thelke. Also in attendance were Dr. Robert Fuelner, Gary Buerrstate from Program Health Care, Teri Terrill and Herb Rosenberg from Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Bruce Ambuel from Waukesha Family Practice, Don Rebholz from Covenant Health Care and several other health care representatives.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

Approve Minutes of March 11, 2004

MOTION: Kipp moved, seconded by Jeskewitz to approve the minutes of March 11, 2004. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion to Allow Secretary Silva to Approval the Final Set(s) of Minutes on Behalf of the Committee

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, seconded by Kipp to allow Silva to approve the final minutes on behalf of the Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Approve Minutes of March 11, 2004

MOTION: Stamsta moved, seconded by Wutt to approve the minutes of March 11, 2004. Motion carried 9-0.

Approval of Dr. Laurence Trueman as Chief Psychiatrist

MOTION: Paulson moved, seconded by Stamsta to approve the appointment of Dr. Laurence Trueman as Chief Psychiatrist at the Mental Health Center.

Public Health Advisory Committee Needs Presentation

A copy of the 2005 Needs List along with a chart of Public Health core functions and a fiscal analysis of the core functions for 2004 were passed out. Sue Konkel, Chair of the Public Health Advisory Committee presented the 2005 needs list. The Advisory Committee needs recommendation for the 2005 budget is to maintain the current Public Health Division infrastructure to carry out the public health core functions and essential services which are mandated under the State of Wisconsin Statutes in Chapter 250. A list of these essential services was handed out. The 2005 estimated infrastructure would consist of 39.60 staff and an approximated budget of \$3,167,581, an increase of \$150,837 (5%) increase over the 2004 budget.

Dr. Healy Haney went over the fiscal analysis of the 2004 core functions which included the following essential services: Assessment, Policy Development, Assurance, and Assurance Public Safety/At-Risk Populations; the programs under these areas as well as the number of staff involved and cost. Dr. Healy explained that under the WIC grant we are required to maintain 2,100 client cases per month; this requires approximately 4,000 annually to achieve this. There is no tax levy in that program so there is no room for increasing salaries and insurance. This is a federally funded program and involves not county tax levy. Lee Esler wanted to point out that Public Health is funded by 4/5 of federal funds not state funds. There were comments made as to how the State Public Health Restructuring would affect our services, but that will be covered under the restructuring topic.

Latino Health Survey

Dr. Peter Maier, Associate Director and Patricia Torres, Assistant Director for Community Liaison, both from the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research gave a presentation on the results of a Latino Health Survey conducted by phone in the city of Waukesha. Dr. Healy Haney stated that we negotiated with the state for the grant and were able to contract with the University to do this Latino Health survey. It was more difficult than originally anticipated. A copy of the survey was provided to all in attendance. Of the approximately 21,466 phone calls made, 235 surveys were completed. Of those 235 surveys, 78 (33%) were conducted in Spanish. Ms. Torres pointed out that the refusal rate was so high because people were reluctant to answer personal questions asked by a stranger due to their culture. She went over the statistics, profile of respondents, i.e. number in household, age, income, education and questions were asked regarding their awareness and use of public health clinics, health care coverage, routine dental and medical checkups, health conditions, maternal health, immunizations, smoking and language barriers. This survey of the Hispanic population can serve as a baseline for future studies, but cannot really use it to assess future trends. The purpose of the survey was to learn more about health issues in the Latino community.

COMBINED AGENDA ITEMS

Discuss Proposed State Division of Public Health Reorganization Proposal

Copies of the "Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) Public Health Restructuring Report: Impact on the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Division and Department of Parks and Land Use, Environmental Health Division" were available to all in attendance. Dr. Nancy Healy Haney read over the first paragraph of the

summary, which stated that in October of 2003 Helene Nelson, Secretary of DHFS, appointed a team of DHFS employees to develop options and make recommendations for the most effective and efficient structure to carry out the state's public health mission. This report summarizes the Restructuring Report with an emphasis on items that will directly impact Waukesha County. There are two methods of realigning state and local health department responsibilities specified in the Public Health Restructuring Report; either shift state responsibilities to local public health agencies or to public health preparedness consortia. The Milwaukee/Waukesha Consortium is not legally ready to accept these additional responsibilities as it is made up of local health department employees and employs one full-time coordinator and one full-time program assistant. Dr. Healy Haney stated that in Wisconsin, we're already not doing well in supporting core functions and that it just cannot be done on grants alone. There are approximately 450 state employees in the public health organization and in May they are going to downsize by 16 and in the biennium another 100 professionals will be laid off. Services shifted from the state to local health departments will obviously have a direct adverse effect on our programs, both public health and environmental health. Additional responsibilities and duties will have to be assigned to available staff and it is unclear whether funding will accompany this shift.

Dale Shaver, Director of Parks and Land Use, and George Morris, Manager of Environmental Health Division spoke about the impact this would have on Environmental Health. The initial reaction of their office is that the proposed restructuring within the State Department of Health and Family Services is due to a strain on the state budget. The Environmental Health Division has tried to obtain program volume information from the State to prepare a proper impact analysis. The information wasn't available. The challenge is either the requirements need to go away or the work will still have to be done by someone. At this point, the Environmental Health Division staff levels are fully committed; therefore they don't have the ability to pick up some of the additional core services. Dale went over the five bullet points on page 4 of the summary report. It will create more local government participation without the promise of funding.

JoAnn Weidmann is the Co-Chair for the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Board. She is presently serving on a workgroup looking into the possibility of a Wisconsin Public Health Institute. They sent a letter to Tom Alt and Fredi Bove from the Division of Public Health, Department of Health & Family Services in which the workgroup attached a draft of their preliminary suggestions for criteria that could be used to measure the various alternatives under consideration and the implications they may have on the public health system. This was to be presented at a recent meeting, but JoAnn hasn't heard anything back on it yet, but will keep us apprised.

Darren Rausch addressed the Public Health Division impacts of the Restructuring Report. He read over the bullet points on pages 2 and 3 of the summary document. Darren explained that in the past we have eliminated some of our grants because of the difficulty of maintaining the performance based contracts.

Announcements

Don Maurer announced that the WCHSA spring conference registration forms are available. The conference will be held May 5th through the 7th at Ho-Chunk Casino in Baraboo.

Adjournment

MOTION: Wutt made a motion seconded by Paulson to adjourn the meeting of the Health & Human Services Board. Motion carried.

MOTION: Wolff made a motion seconded by Silva to adjourn the meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee. Motion carried.

Recorded by Kathy Leach.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva
Secretary for the Committee